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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Czechoslovak-Soviet Economic Talks End

The Soviet Union has agreed to provide Czechoslovakia with "substantially greater" supplies of natural gas "from 1970," and to supply the East Slovakian Iron Works with ore, but apparently Moscow has not yet agreed to grant Czechoslovakia the hard currency that Prague desires.

In addition to noting these agreements, the communique issued after the two-day talks added that both sides "have agreed on the procedure to be adopted in talks on other issues of economic cooperation...and the problem of coordination of national economic plans for 1971 to 1975."

The lack of comment on the important issue of the Soviet "loan" to Czechoslovakia indicates that Moscow will hold out on this as long as possible in order to maintain some leverage on Prague.

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Czechoslovak Delegation Visits Hungary

Party leader Dubcek and Premier Cernik today led a delegation to Budapest, where a new friendship and mutual assistance treaty will be signed. Other members of the Czechoslovak delegation include Slovak Communist Party first secretary Bilak, Foreign Minister Hajek, and the Minister for Economic Planning, Frantisek Vlasak. The latter's inclusion suggest that economic matters will also be discussed with the Hungarians.

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Rumanian-Congo (Brazzaville) Relations

The inclusion of high-level Rumanian Defense Ministry officials in talks with Congolese President Massamba-Debat during his early June visit suggests that Rumania may be interested in selling arms to the Congolese. The attention and publicity accorded the Congolese visitors are further evidence that Rumania is actively cultivating underdeveloped countries. In an unprecedented move, party and state chief Ceausescu publicly accepted Massamba's invitation to visit Brazzaville at an unspecified date.

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Polish Party Daily's Bonn Correspondent Defects

Artur Kowalski, Bonn correspondent of the main party daily Trybuna Ludu, refused to return to Warsaw after being recalled from his assignment, according to the 12 June issue of the paper.

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Rumanian and Hungarian Party Representatives "Exchange Views"

The visit to Budapest during 5-7 June of a two-man Rumanian party delegation, led by presidium member Bodnaras, continued the bilateral dialogue but apparently broke no new ground.

According to the Rumanian Embassy press officer, Pop, bilateral relations are developing positively in spite of "well known" differences of views. He said that Bodnaras told his hosts of the recent visits of De Gaulle to Bucharest and Rumanian leader Ceausescu to Yugoslavia. Bodnaras also reportedly questioned the Hungarians on the utility and propriety of the recent Dresden and Moscow rump meetings which seek to speak in the name of the Warsaw Pact without the attendance of all members, i.e., Rumania.

Pop also said that basic agreement has been reached between Bucharest and Budapest on renewing their expired friendship treaty. In noting that the treaty will be signed "this year," however, he gave the impression that it

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would be later rather than earlier. Kadar presumably will not visit Bucharest until the treaty is ready for signature.

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Polish-Venezuelan Economic Talks Winding Up

A high-powered Venezuelan economic delegation now visiting Poland is being given the red carpet treatment. The mission, headed by the first deputy minister of foreign affairs, Raul Nass, also includes leading representatives of the petrochemical, construction, rolling stock, and livestock industry. The group has visited the Poznan International Trade Fair now in progress, and its individual members have been given guided tours of various Polish industrial centers.

According to the Poles, mutual talks have proved "advantageous," and a declaration on the "prospects of trade between the two countries" will be signed on 14 June. The Poles are probably most interested in getting in on the development of new oil producing areas in Venezuela. The Venezuelan Petroleum Company announced last month that socialist countries would be allowed to exploit Venezuelan oil on the basis of contracts approved last year by the Venezuelan government.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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